

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A spread illuminating apparatus in which a ~~square~~ transparent substrate is provided close to a major surface of a liquid crystal panel and said liquid crystal panel is illuminated through said transparent substrate by a bar-like light source which is provided at and parallel with a side surface of said transparent substrate,

wherein a plurality of straight groove portions ~~are~~ formed directly on a major surface of said transparent substrate, the major surface being opposite to the surface facing the liquid crystal panel, intersecting-intersect one another obliquely with respect to four sides of said transparent substrate,

whereby a portion of light traveling in a direction ~~substantially~~ parallel to the major surface of the transparent substrate is reflected at said plurality of straight groove portions in a direction ~~substantially perpendicular to the major surface of the transparent substrate so as to travel toward~~ the liquid crystal panel.

3-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said groove portions are substantially triangular in cross section.

10. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein an interval between said groove portions is decreased as a distance from said bar-like light source increases.

11. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a depth of said groove portions is increased as a distance from said bar-like source increases.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said bar-like light source comprises a bar-like fluorescent tube.

14. (Previously Presented) A spread illuminating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said bar-like light source includes a bar-like transparent light conductive member and a light emitting diode which is provided at an end portion of said bar-like transparent light conductive member.

15. (Canceled)